



February 22, 2006

(Available online at <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a27/enewsletter.htm>)



Democratic Priorities for the State Budget and Proposed Bond Projects

Following the annual Assembly Democratic Caucus planning retreat, held this year in Monterey, I joined Speaker Fabian Núñez (D-Boyle Heights) at a press conference at the State Capitol to articulate the Assembly Democratic Caucus priorities for the state budget and the Governor's proposed bond projects.

With respect to the Governor's proposed \$68 billion bond package, I detailed four key points:

The bond package should include a vision of targeted investments that is a coherent plan to link the proposed bonds together.

Key areas of investment should include education, transportation, housing, natural resources and hospital seismic safety.

We are concerned about debt impact to the general fund of the state budget, and urge a plan that is fiscally prudent.

We favor a plan that does not include a lessening of legislative authority on oversight of the bonds.

To listen to my full comments at the press conference, [click here](#).

Predatory Lending Town Hall

New Laird Legislation: Year of the California Museum

John has introduced ACR 119, a bill that proclaims 2006 the Year of the California Museum.

For more information, and to track the bill, go to <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov>, click "Bill Information" and enter "119" in the search box.

(Check here next month for more new Laird legislation.)

Rating John's Votes

CA League of Conservation Voters—100% on 2005 Environmental Scorecard

CA National Organization for Women—100% on 2005 Legislative Report Card

John in the District

2/23 California Association of Museums Annual Conference, Monterey

2/24 Cypress Grove High School Political Science Day, Seaside

2/25 LGBT Alliance Community Update, Santa Cruz

3/3 Health Improvement Council Meeting, Santa Cruz

3/3 Santa Cruz City Council,

On January 28th, 2006, I joined Assemblymember Simón Salinas, Congressman Sam Farr and the Monterey County Housing Alliance (MoCHA) to host a town hall forum on the dangers of predatory lending practices in the mortgage business. The purpose of the event was to raise awareness about the possible warning signs of this practice—a practice that can lead to devastating results for those who are simply looking to fulfill the “American Dream.”

To read a summary of the town hall forum, [click here](#).

Federal Cuts to Student Aid

Though the U.S. House of Representatives narrowly passed the 2005 Deficit Reduction Act, I was pleased to have 69 California state legislators sign on to a letter I sent to Speaker Hastert urging him remove the \$12.7 billion cut to Federal Student Financial Aid Programs from the legislation. The cut, the largest ever in the history of federal student financial aid programs, will have a devastating impact to access to higher education and accounts for nearly one-third of the total amount of cuts proposed in the Deficit Reduction Act.

To read the letter and the accompanying press release, [click here](#).

Op-Ed on Education Funding

Following the Governor's recent visit to the Monterey Bay area—where he and I both addressed a statewide education group—I authored an op-ed on education funding that ran in area newspapers.

The bottom line is that no matter how arcane the education finance debate may seem, unless certain fiscally responsible actions are taken this year, the state will have to make even tougher decisions next year. To read the op-ed, [click here](#).

Listen to John on KUSP's Sacramento Report

1/25—John discusses the Governor's annual address at the Sacramento Press Club.

2/8—John discusses the annual Democratic Caucus Retreat, held this year in Monterey.

[Click here to for the Mp3 audio clips](#).

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State Legislative Meeting

3/10 Non-profit Alliance of Monterey County Monthly Meeting, Marina

3/10 Gilroy Unified School District Board Meeting

3/11 League of Women Voters Monthly Meeting, Santa Cruz

John on the Radio— Spring 2006 Schedule

KSCO/1080-AM
Mondays, 8:10am

KUSP/88.9-FM
Wednesdays, 10:55am

KRXX/540-AM
Fridays, 5:05pm

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